



GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB

AFFILIATED TO ENGLAND HOCKEY AND SOUTH EAST HOCKEY
ACCREDITED TALENT ACADEMY AND TALENT CENTRE

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AGM 2023 – Men's Section Report

Once again, the season has passed very quickly and as I look back, it's hard to remember those early season games in September. In any sport you can gauge success by your position in the league table at the end of the season. Yes, that is one measure but, in my mind, it shouldn't be the only measure.

I think we need to consider the other elements, such as ...who comes back to the bar after the game? ...how many people do I know in the bar? ...is there some good banter within the team? ...what was the standard of hockey played?

Simply put - are we having fun? I hope this year we have all had fun.

If you look at the league positions this year, I firmly feel we have, again, moved the club forward:

- The Men's 1st XI coped very well in the England Hockey League Conference East and beat the eventual league winners (twice!), finishing in third place.
- Men's 2s had another great season and firmly positioned themselves in the South East Hockey Division 1 West.
- The Men's 3' are promoted AGAIN, with a real mix of youth and experience.
- The Men's 4s were in promotion contention right up to the end.
- The Men's 5s were always a competitive side.
- The Pilgrims (O40s) welcomed some new faces and climbed up the league at the end.
- The Gladiators (O50s) came 3rd in their first season playing O50s hockey, and had a great Cup run losing in the National semi-final.
- The Cavaliers grew their player base AGAIN and secured promotion.
- The Gondoliers (O60s) had a tough season and will need strengthening next season.

- We ran a Mixed side and had short Cup run - something we need to focus on next season.

We ran 10 Men's sides during the 2022/23 season, and in the forthcoming season we will add another new side. GHC Men will run 11 sides on a Saturday!!!

In 4-5 short years the Men's section has really grown – not only in numbers but also in league positions – something we all should be proud about. At GHC we should continually strive to provide competitive hockey for all ages and abilities.

I would like to mention a few people to say thank you. I am sorry if I have missed anyone off, with so many in the section I am sure I will:

- Dan Fox as Director of Hockey has been great to work with and helps me and the Board drive the club forward.
- Josh Bishop had a great first season as M2 Captain but with the imminent arrival of new baby will be stepping back from Captain.
- Jon Tudor (JT) has been M3 Captain for a few years and – in addition to his liaison work with Broadwater School – has led the M3 brilliantly but he hopes to move back up to the Northwest and be closer to his family. THANKS, JT!
- The M4 are seeking new leadership after Phil Meakin has been the driving force getting the team regular promotions. Thanks, Phil!
- Mike Fitter has almost single handily created the brand “cavaliers” and his enthusiasm, organisation and drive have helped bring new people to the club and encouraged youngsters on their journey into adult Hockey. Mike, the club is very lucky to have you – thank you!

I do feel very excited about the 23/24 season, and I know on the field Dan and I will be setting some stiff goals for the elite squads. The new season is when we really aim to put GHC on the map.

Please enjoy the summer (maybe turn up on a Wednesday evening for the 7-a-side roll up!) and tell all your Hockey friends to come to the club. We want GHC to be a fun and competitive Club. We can only do this with your help and support.



Mike Kefford, Men's Captain (May 2023)

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